

Gentlepersons of the  
FCC:

Today's cable  
companies are  
downright h-u-g-e.  
In fact, they are  
already too big.  
Now they are  
stumbling over this  
obese bloat of  
theirs in their  
manifest greed for  
the very last  
sheckel of our  
entertainment  
budget. They should  
not be permitted to  
grow even larger.  
They are big enough  
already.

Fact: Further cable  
industry  
consolidation is a  
clear and egregious  
re-violation of  
extant "horizontal  
ownership" rules.  
These rules are in  
place for the sake  
of the public  
interest. They have  
been massively  
disrespected and  
oh-so-conveniently  
overlooked in recent  
times. These rules  
must be

re-established and  
restored to  
respectable  
effectiveness in  
order to actually  
serve the public  
interest. Um,  
that's /your/  
mandate when there  
ain't a Dubya over  
there to bully you  
into a bad  
compromise against  
the public interest,  
ain't it? Hm??  
Well???

Fact: The  
concentration of  
power and control  
over distribution of  
media has already  
grown like kudzu  
over this country.  
The overall quality  
of basic human  
consciousness has  
suffered  
degradation  
repeatedly in  
proportion as the  
cable giants line  
their pockets again  
and again at our  
expense. With some  
few notable  
exceptions, the  
mainstream cable  
product consists

primarily of thinly  
disguised commercial  
promotions punctured  
by episodes of 'way  
sexxy titillation  
and irreality-based  
though  
thought-palatable  
(but not to ME!)  
sociopolitical  
fantasy in place of  
solid program  
content. In fact,  
although we have  
more channels  
available than ever  
before, they are  
under the operation  
of a handful of  
giant corporations.

Only a fool would  
confuse quantity  
(of channels) with  
quality (of  
programming. I am  
not stupid, and this  
proposed additional  
consolidation is  
wrong.

My point is this:  
Should Comcast and  
Time Warner be  
allowed by your  
esteemed agency to  
merge with Adelphia,  
the two companies  
will control nearly  
50 percent of the

national programming  
market. This level  
of concentration in  
the cable industry  
will lead to higher  
consumer rates, a  
massive capital  
flight to the upper  
reaches of  
corporatias from the  
pockets of  
street-level working  
stiffs, and  
additional  
"pablumization" of  
the programming  
content, and  
assuredly lower  
quality service.  
For my part, I shall  
not subscribe to  
such a corrupt  
atrociousness at all. My  
money stays in the  
bank where it  
belongs until I  
invest it.

I do not waste my  
time with the  
sociomental doodoo  
that the FCC and the  
monolith it pretends  
these days to  
"regulate" calls  
"programming", by  
and large. Since  
passage of the  
Telecommunications

Act of 1996 and the “deregulation” of cable, consumers have seen their rates jump an average of 59 percent — with some areas experiencing even more dramatic increases. Everyone was fed the same tired old lie about competition and improved quality of life. The fools who bought got this instead of the promise. (I did not buy.) Eleven years of failed promises and now ya gonna duu it again?? (Duh.)

Should I /ever/ actually decide to subscribe, I shall surely be required to buy channels I don’t want or need because the cable operators bundle them together. I shopped for cable-based Internet access six months back and was told I had to buy a thoroughly useless and time-wasting

\$100.00 programming  
bundle to get it! I  
do not even WANT the  
Playboy Channel! It  
is USELESS to me!

Point: The very  
nature as well as  
the ill quality of  
cable customer  
service often  
/directly/ reflects  
the fact that cable  
television is not a  
competitive market  
these days.

Deregulation is a  
sick joke, People.

Lily Tomlin's  
old-timey "Ernestine  
the Telephone Lady"  
character would be  
right at home  
working at the  
average cable  
office's Help Desk.

"I don't HAVE to  
help you! We are  
Comcast Corporation!

WE contril YOUR  
picture! What's  
WRONG with YOU?"

(all the while  
stroking the bosom  
under the blouse...)

Meanwhile, the cost  
of cable modem  
service remains out

of reach for many households. It has held constant for years. This selectively underserves rural and low-income Americans. The American people are watching the digital divide widen even as the need for access to high-speed networks increases.

THis may please the Bush Administration's agenda for carving up what is left of our nation into bite-sized cash-cow mouthfuls for his college buddies and suchlike greedy ilk to devour. I shall not co-operate with Dubya. I am not a madman, nor am I greedy. /Et/ /tu?/

Cable companies have become less and less responsive to the needs and requirements of communities, exactly as predicted by the \"crazy activists\" and \"extremist\"

critics of  
deregulation from  
the start. Now, I  
have a Long Memory,  
and I tell you this:

The quality of  
public  
accountability in  
local franchise  
agreements has  
drastically  
declined, as big  
companies leverage  
their power to  
squeeze local  
governments into  
positions of  
detrimental  
compromise. That is  
bad for us even  
again.

In many communities,  
the truly  
independent sources  
of local news,  
information and  
culture come from  
the public channels  
produced at the  
local access  
centers. We have one  
of those in  
Fitchburg, which is  
where I write you  
from.

Unfortunately, our  
local channel is  
critically short on



the resources it  
needs in order to  
produce the quality  
and quantity of  
topical, timely  
programming that our  
community's  
citizens most want  
and need. To its  
credit, our local  
access studio does  
not broadcast  
Government-sponsored  
pseudo-news VNR  
propaganda.

For my part in that  
solution, I have  
stashed away a  
three-inch-thick  
stack of  
discarded-though-virgin  
VNR Gummint DVDs  
against the  
inevitable day when  
some damfool  
revisionist swears  
in my face that \"No  
Such Thing Ever  
Haa-a-a-appened\" as  
that damnable  
propaganda-as-news  
travesty played out  
upon the now-wounded  
and bleeding  
American public  
trust.

People, kindly hear

this: The last thing we need is to reward the anti-competitive actions of cable giants and a corrupt Bonesman gone mad by permitting even greater consolidation in ownership, further reducing competition, and encouraging more of the same again and again. The benefits ascribed to deregulation have failed to materialize, again and again.

One working definition of clinical insanity is the repeated undertaking of a doomed action while expecting a different result than the last time... and the time before that and the time before that...

Kind FCC Regulators,  
kindly /do/ make an end of the present Administration\'s

monopolistic  
consolidative  
madness. We shall  
bless you for doing  
so - once we are  
certain you have not  
merely "played" and  
fooled us once more  
in the name of  
Making Money. The  
old rules worked for  
all of us. The new  
ones are a proven  
no-good for us Human  
Beings, even though  
maybe you guys would  
rather attend some  
kinda' cocktail  
party with the  
Comcast exec staff  
while eschewing your  
place at our own  
humble table. After  
all, it's only We  
the People speaking  
to you here. And  
to you we are what?  
Chopped liver?  
(Feh!)

Y'all can do better  
than that. So do  
better and make good  
for a change, for  
once. OK? (Hope  
so.)